

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASDH 8692
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5285

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, XF, IZ, CU, UR
SUBJ: SOVIET IRAQI RELATIONS

REF BAGHDAD 1122

1. POLCOUNS DISCUSSED LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN IRAQ WITH MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD DAVOUDI MAY 30. HE USED REFTEL AS STARTING POINT. DAVOUDI REPLIED THAT IRANIAN VIEW CLOSELY PARALLELS OUR OWN FROM BAGHDAD. IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE WHETHER NUMBER EXECUTED ARE 14 OR 40, THE PRINCIPLE IS THE IMPORTANT THING.

2. DAVOUDI SAID IRAQ IS SIMPLY SIGNALING THE SOVIETS ONCE AGAIN THAT IT IS "OF AGE" AND NOT TO MEDDLE IN ITS INTERNAL POLITICS. AFGHANISTAN PROABLY REMINDED IRAQIS THAT SOVIETS PREFER GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE FULLY OBEDIENT TO THEMSELVES
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EVEN WHEN THEY HAVE GOVERNMENTS (SUCH AS DAOUD'S IN AFGHANISTAN) WHICH ARE ALREADY LEANING TOWARDS SOVIET UNION. NEVERTHELESS, DAVOUDI DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY ABRUPT CHANGES IN IRAQI FOREIGN POLICY. IRAQIS HAVE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH SOVIETS OVER POLICY IN AFRICA, BUT THEY ARE REALISTS AND KNOW THEY NEED THE SOVIETS. OTHERWISE WHERE WOULD THEY TURN?

3. DAVOUDI ALSO CONFIDED A REPORT HE HAD HEARD, WHICH HE SAID WAS NOT CONFIRMED. ACCORDING TO HIM, NUMBER THREE MAN IN IRAQ, INTERIOR MINISTER IZZAT IBRAHIM, IS EXTREMELY PURITANICAL. AT A EVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL MEETING SOME TWO MONTHS AGO HE ASKED IRAQI RULERS TO AUTHORIZE HIM TO TAKE AWAY THE EXTRA APARTMENTS MANY OF THESE SAME RULERS WERE KEEPING AROUND TOWN (PRESUMABLY AS "GARCONNIERES"). HE PROPOSED TO PUT POOR PEOPLE IN THEM. THIS AUTHORITY WAS GRANTED, BUT RCC MEMBERS WERE NONPLUSSED WHEN HE SEIZED THE APARTMENTS THE VERY NEXT DAY. THEY BEGAN TO THINK OF HIM AS A THREAT AND FROZE HIM OUT OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, IN EFFECT MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO HIS JOB EVEN THOUGH HE MAINTAINED HIS POSITION OFFICIALLY. AFTER THE EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, HOWEVER, THEY CHANGED THIE MINDS AND HAVE GIVEN HIM BACK HIS AUTHORITY. IBRAHIM IS TODAY AS IMPORTANT AS EVER, AND THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT. DAVOUDI ASKED THAT WE HOLD THIS STORY CLOSELY. SULLIVAN

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